



australian nursing federation

6 May 2013

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee
on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

**Re. Aged Care (Living Longer Living Better) Bill 2013;
Australian Aged Care Quality Agency Bill 2013;
Australian Aged Care Quality Agency (Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013;
Aged Care (Bond Security) Amendment Bill 2013;
Aged Care (Bond Security) Levy Amendment Bill 2013**

I write in regard to the Australian Nursing Federation's (ANF) submission to the Inquiry and our appearance before the Senate Committee hearing in Canberra on 2 May 2013.

In both the submission and at the hearing reference was made to the initiatives in the Australian government budgets of 2002 and 2004 to make additional funding available to assist aged care providers meet their labor force costs and pay more competitive wages to their aged care staff.

We note that in exchange with Mr Mersiades from Catholic Health Australia, Senator Fierravanti-Wells referred to our comments on the funding initiatives as "unsubstantiated assertions" (Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Hansard of 2 May 2013 at page 43).

The ANF acknowledges that our submission did not provide the Committee with supporting detail on the supplementary funding and apologise for this oversight.

However we have now had an opportunity to do so and we are pleased to provide with the committee with the following documentation:

- Media Release from the then Minister of Ageing, Kevin Andrews MP, dated May 14, 2002, noting, inter alia, "an extra \$211M for increased residential aged care subsidies to assist providers to meet their labour force costs and address the disparity between wages in the aged care and hospital sectors".

The industrial and professional organisation for nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing in Australia

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ANF Journals

Australian Nursing Journal
Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing
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As a national body, the ANF Federal Office acknowledges the traditional owners and Elders past and present across Australia, with particular acknowledgment to the Greater Kulin Nation, the traditional owners of the lands where the Melbourne Office is located, and the Ngunnawal people, the traditional owners of the land where the Canberra Office is located.

www.anf.org.au

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- Media Release from the then Minister of Ageing, Julie Bishop MP, dated 11 May 2004 providing an overview of the aged care initiatives in the 2004 budget including “an extra \$877.8M over 4 years through a conditional adjustment payment to improve the financial position of aged care providers and allow them to pay more competitive wages to staff”.

We would be pleased if you could provide a copy of this correspondence and enclosures to the members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

NICK BLAKE
Senior Federal Industrial Officer

Enc.



Media Release

THE HON KEVIN ANDREWS MP

Minister for Ageing

May 14, 2002

CAPITAL FUNDING BOOST FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

An extra \$100 million will be provided to aged care homes in rural and regional Australia to upgrade their facilities.

The Federal Government will also provide \$47.5 million over four years to train nurses in regional areas and allow personal care staff in smaller, less viable aged care homes to do further training.

Federal Minister for Ageing Kevin Andrews said, "The Federal Government has delivered on its substantial election commitments for older Australians, with important initiatives for rural and regional areas.

"Our top priority in the Ageing portfolio is the health and well-being of all residents, wherever they may be, and this Budget will ensure they get the best possible care."

The additional funding of \$509.3 million over four years in this Budget brings total Commonwealth expenditure on the Ageing portfolio to \$5.5 billion in 2002-03, up from \$5.2 billion in 2001-02.

Other Budget highlights include:

- \$80 million for Australia's 2.3 million carers, including \$30 million to expand Commonwealth-funded respite services, particularly for carers in rural and remote areas;
- an extra \$211 million for increased residential aged care subsidies to assist providers to meet their labour force costs and address the disparity between wages in the aged care and hospital sectors; and
- \$68.8 million over four years for more Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs), which provide personal care so people can stay at home for as long as possible.

Mr Andrews said the extra \$100 million in capital grants would help smaller aged care homes in rural and regional Australia upgrade their facilities and remain viable.

"In relation to nursing, \$26.3 million will fund up to 250 scholarships for students from regional areas to study nursing, while \$21.2 million will help personal care staff in smaller homes do a range of accredited courses related to geriatric care," he said.

Further information: Felicity Dargan (Press Secretary) 0409 550 446



**The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Minister for Ageing**

MEDIA RELEASE

11 May 2004

JB

INVESTING IN AUSTRALIA'S AGED CARE: MORE PLACES, BETTER CARE

The Australian Government will provide an extra \$2.2 billion in 2003-04 and the four forward years to boost the quality and availability of aged care services for older Australians, the Minister for Ageing, Julie Bishop, announced today.

The *Investing In Australia's Aged Care: More Places, Better Care* package represents the biggest investment in aged care ever undertaken by an Australian Government and builds on the significant reforms made since 1997. With this new funding, the Australian Government will provide a total of \$30 billion for aged care services over the next four years, and a total of \$67 billion from 1996 to 2008.

Released as the Australian Government's response to the *Review of Pricing Arrangements in Residential Aged Care*, which was conducted by Professor Warren Hogan, the package will equip the aged care sector to face the immediate and future challenges posed by Australia's ageing population.

"Older Australians can face the future with confidence that if they require support they will be well looked after. They can also rest assured that they will be treated with fairness and respect, regardless of their wealth or location," Ms Bishop said.

"Since coming to office in 1996 the Australian Government has been delivering on its vision for world class, high quality, accessible, affordable services to meet the individual needs of older Australians.

"Investing In Australia's Aged Care: More Places, Better Care a bigger, stronger and better quality sector, through reforms which are both socially and economically responsible."

Key elements of the package include:

- An estimated 27,900 new aged care places to be allocated over the next three years, including 13,030 in 2004.
- An extra \$877.8 million over four years through a conditional adjustment payment to improve the financial position of aged care providers and allow them to pay more competitive wages to staff.
- Increased funding for aged care providers to construct new homes and refurbish existing homes to meet privacy, space and amenity standards through:
 - additional capital payments for assisted, concessional, respite and transitional residents, totalling \$438.6 million over four years;
 - increasing the maximum rate of the accommodation charge for high care residents (other than respite residents) who enter after 1 July 2004 and who have the ability to contribute to the cost of their accommodation, by up to \$2.34 per day, and removing the five year limit on charges; and

- a one-off payment of \$513.3 million (or \$3,500 per resident) in 2003-04 to providers in recognition of the forward plan for improved building standards for aged care homes by 2008, in particular improved fire safety.
- An additional 2,000 transition care places to assist older people following a hospital stay to allow them time to assess their options while receiving rehabilitation services and support to increase their independence and confidence.
- Extra funding of \$101.4 million over four years to expand education and training places for aged care workers and nurses.
- An additional \$14.8 million over four years in viability supplements for eligible rural and remote aged care homes.
- An extra \$47.9 million over four years, including funding for Aged Care Assessment Teams, to make it easier for older Australians to be assessed for residential and community care services and to improve case management.
- An additional \$11.6 million over the next four years to strengthen access to culturally appropriate aged care.
- Additional funding of \$10.3 million over four years to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Services, to extend the conditional incentive payment, increase the concessional resident supplement and pay viability supplement for the first time.
- New supplements for dementia and palliative care residents with higher care needs.
- A new e-commerce system and streamlined payment scales to reduce paperwork, giving staff more time to care for residents.
- An extra \$36.3 million over four years for the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency to ensure continued improvements in the quality of care.
- Increased protection for residents' accommodation bonds through a provider-funded guarantee fund and increased information about aged care homes for older Australians and their families through a new web-based service.

Investing In Australia's Aged Care: More Places, Better Care provides initiatives to address both short term and medium term measures to secure aged care for older Australians and their families now and into the future.

“Through this package Government is ensuring quality of care for people who need residential aged care, and is increasing the options for those who continue to live at home.

“A good aged care workforce is vital. *Investing In Australia's Aged Care: More Places, Better Care* will not only increase the availability of nurses and other workers, they will have the skills required to provide high quality care.”

The Minister expressed her appreciation to Professor Warren Hogan for his professional approach to the Review and acknowledged the contribution of the Expert and Technical Advisory Group, the Industry and Consumer Reference Group, the members of the Taskforce, and individuals and groups who provided submissions to and consulted with the Review team.

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